

Sterling Sportsmen's Association

PO Box 473

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Sterling, MI 48659

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The Sterling Sportsmen's Association is an organization of like minded individuals who are headquartered on a 3.02 acre parcel of property located in Deep River Township, Arenac County Michigan.

Our property tax ordeal started in 2005 when a deal was struck between our club and the Deep River Township. The deal was that if a quit claim deed was signed between the club and the township, turning the club property over to the township in the event of dissolution our property taxes would be reduced to \$100 per year. Several other organizations have employed this same practice across the state based upon a court decision upholding the practice through the years.

Now comes the former township assessor, who had resigned her position in a grey cloud. She filed a complaint with the Michigan State Tax Commission. In 2009 the tax commission ruled that the assessment was not valid and ordered that full tax assessment be reinstated for years 2007, 2008 and 2009 and from then until present. As a result of this action the club was forced to pay \$7,100 that was not expected. Now the tax bill is around \$2,300 per year. This may not seem like a lot of money but for a club that has around 225 members and an annual income in the neighborhood of \$50,000 per year, it's a lot of money.

This is a brief narrative on what has happened to us. We at the Sterling Sportsmen's Club whole heartedly support Senate Bill 570.

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